

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 01255 271033Z
ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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P R 270941Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5060
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 1255

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EWWT, PLOS, JA
SUBJECT: TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL SEA DECIDED

REFS: (A) TOKYO 0488 (B) TOKYO 0934

SUMMARY. GOJ REACHED AGREEMENT JANUARY 27 TO ASK DIET
TO EXTEND JAPANESE TERRITORIAL SEA FROM THREE TO TWELVE
NAUTICAL MILES EXCEPT IN VICINITY OF INTERNATIONAL
STRAITS. STATUS QUO IN STRAITS WILL BE FROZEN PENDING
OUTCOME OF LOS CONFERENCE INTO QUESTION WHETHER
NUCLEAR WEAPONS-BEARING VESSELS NEED BE REFUSED RIGHT
OF TRANSIT IN ACCORD WITH JAPANESE "NON-NUCLEAR
PRINCIPLES." US INTERESTS APPEAR PROTECTED. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 01255 271033Z

1. FIFTEEN-MONTH JAPANESE DEBATE ON WHETHER AND HOW
TO EXTEND TERRITORIAL SEA FROM THREE TO TWELVE NAUTICAL
MILES CLIMAXED JANUARY 27, WHEN FONMIN HATOYAMA YIELDED
TO PLAN VIGOROUSLY PROPOUNDED BY AGMIN SUZUKI
AND SUPPORTED BY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA (REFTELS).
FOLLOWING MEETING OF THE THREE, NEWSMEN WERE TOLD ACCORDING TO
YOMIURI ACCOUNT) THAT GOJ HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND

TERRITORIAL WATERS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF JAPANESE COASTAL FISHERMEN. GOJ DECIDED AT SAME TIME TO MAINTAIN THREE-NAUTICAL-MILE LIMIT FOR INTERNATIONAL STRAITS, SUCH AS TSUGARU, TSUSHIMA AND SOYA STRAITS. DECISION WILL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL RULES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL STRAITS ARE ADOPTED AT LOS CONFERENCE. EXCEPTION (FOR STRAITS) WILL BE MADE IN VIEW OF JAPAN'S THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES, WHICH DO NOT ALLOW PASSAGE OF FOREIGN SHIPS CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS THROUGH JAPANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS.

2. ACCORDING TO MEDIA, SUZUKI WAS CHARGED WITH COORDINATING PREPARATION OF "TERRITORIAL WATERS LAW" FOR DIET ENACTMENT THIS SPRING. EXTENSION OF MARITIME JURISDICTION BY CABINET ORDER HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, BUT MINISTERS REPORTEDLY JUDGED LEGISLATION NECESSARY IN ORDER TO CLARIFY AUTHORITY OF JAPANESE COURTS TO PUNISH TRESPASSING FOREIGN FISHERMEN. ALSO ACCORDING TO MEDIA, SUZUKI AND SONODA (WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSENSUS FIRMLY BEHIND THEM) BRUSHED ASIDE LAST-DITCH FONOFF EFFORT TO SELL INSTEAD WHAT AMOUNTED TO TWELVE-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE.

3. FISHERIES SPOKESMEN WARMLY GREETED ANNOUNCEMENT. ONE PREDICTED WIDER TERRITORIAL SEA WOULD REDUCE DAMAGE DONE JAPANESE FISHING GEAR BY SOVIET VESSELS ON ORDER OF SIXTY TO SEVENTY PERCENT. ANOTHER, FISHERIES ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT KAMENAGE, DISCOUNTED NOTION THAT MOVE WOULD IMPACT BADLY ON PENDING SOVIET-JAPANESE FISHERIES CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 01255 271033Z

NEGOTIATIONS, INASMUCH AS RUSSIANS HAVE LONG HAD TWELVE-MILE ZONE. IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO USSR AKIRA SHIGEMITSU TOLD JAPAN TIMES THAT SOVIETS WOULD ACQUIESCE IN JAPANESE MOVE.

4. MEDIA INDICATED THAT GOJ DECISION WAS SATISFACTORY TO MODERATE DSP AND NEW LIBERAL CLUB BUT LESS SO TO JSP, CGP AND JCP. LATTER THREE WILL CRITICIZE GOJ FOR ALLEGEDLY SEEKING TO "EMASCULATE" NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WILL RISK WRATH OF FISHERIES LOBBY BY ATTEMPTING TO TIE UP TERRITORIAL-SEA LEGISLATION IN DIET FOR LONG.

5. APPARENTLY ONLY QUESTION OUTSTANDING IS HOW TO WORD DRAFT LEGISLATION SO THAT STATUS QUO IS MAINTAINED NOT ONLY IN THREE MAJOR STRAITS, BUT ALSO IN THREE-SCORE OTHERS SOMETIMES UNSED FOR INTERNATIONAL NAVIGATION. MEDIA SUGGESTS THIS PROBLEM IS MANAGEABLE. IF SO, PROJECTED LEGISLATION, THOUGH DISTASTEFUL TO FONOFF

BECAUSE OF ITS IMPACT ON JAPANESE LOS POSITION, DOES NOT
SEEM TO DAMAGE US LOS INTERESTS.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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